Fresh BPL census

*29. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning a fresh BPL census to identify the BPL families; and

(b) if so, the parameters proposed to be used to identify those families?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under joint responsibility of Central and State/UT Governments. The operational responsibility for identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families and issuance of ration cards to them under TPDS rests with the concerned State/UT Governments.

As provided under Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, the State/UT Governments have to identify BPL families as per the poverty estimates of Planning Commission accepted by the Central Government. For taking up next round of BPL census in rural and urban areas, Ministries of Rural Development and Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, respectively, are yet to issue guidelines.

Recent train accidents in the country

*30. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has taken seriously recent train accidents in the country;

(b) if so, whether she has taken a serious note of recent incident of Goa Express that rammed into another train near Mathura;

(c) if so, the number of railway officials and others who were involved in this incident;

(d) how many officials responsible for this have so far been dismissed and inquiry started; and

(e) the safety measures her Ministry has taken so far and to what extent these measures would help avoid train accidents in the country?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Inquiry by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, North Eastern Circle has been ordered to establish the cause and the responsibility behind the rear-end collision involving Mewar Express and Goa Express on 21.10.2009 near Mathura Station of Agra Division of North Central Railway. Central Bureau of Investigation has also been requested to take up investigation of the sequence of events leading to the unfortunate accident and after considering all the police cases registered in this matter to unravel the truth.

(c) and (d) Action will be taken against the defaulting officials on receipt of the final report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety. The Loco Pilot, Assistant Loco Pilot of 2779 Goa Express and the Signal Maintainer have been placed under suspension. Divisional Railway Manager, Agra and Senior Divisional Signal and Telecommunications Engineer, Agra have also been transferred.

(e) Safety is the prime concern of Indian Railways and all possible measures are being taken to prevent accidents which include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for up-gradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. As a result, there has been a declining trend in the number of consequential train accidents. In the current year during April to October 2009, consequential train accidents decreased from 105 to 82 in comparison to the corresponding period of the previous year.

Foodgrains destroyed by rats and insects

†*31. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains destroyed by rats and insects during last three years;

(b) whether insecticides are used in storing the foodgrains to save them from perishing;

(c) if so, the quantum of insecticides used each year in the last three years and the cost incurred thereon; and

(d) the reasons for substantial loss to the foodgrains by rats and insects despite their upkeep with the use of insecticides?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Due to the use of effective rodenticides and insecticides for the control of rats and insects, the quantum of foodgrains destroyed in Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns during last three years is negligible.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The quantum of insecticides used in each year in the last three years in FCI godowns and the cost incurred thereon are given below:

Year	Quantum of insecticides used		Cost incurred (Fig. In lakh Rs.)
	Solid/ powder insecticides (Tonnes)	Liquid insecticides (Litres)	
2006-07	346.3	23330	576.38
2007-08	407.1	24029	624.59
2008-09	514.0	33769	799.04

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi